

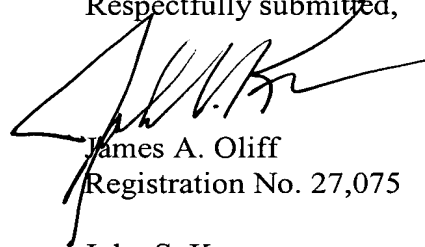
REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-13 are amended. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSK/kap

Date: December 10, 2003

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